

What is claimed is:

1. A method for screening a gene relating to a psychiatric disorder, which comprises the step of using a behaviorally sensitized nematode for screening of a gene relating to the behavioral sensitization.

2. A method for screening a substance useful for prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatment of a psychiatric disorder, which comprises the step of using a behaviorally sensitized nematode for screening of a substance that affects the behavioral sensitization.

3. The screening method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the psychiatric disorder is schizophrenia.

4. The screening method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein a nematode behaviorally sensitized by a central nervous system stimulant or another dopamine agonist is used.

5. The screening method according to claim 4, wherein a nematode behaviorally sensitized by any of a psychostimulant, an apomorphine and a narcotic analgesic is used.

6. The screening method according to claim 5, wherein a nematode behaviorally sensitized by any of amphetamine, methamphetamine, apomorphine and cocaine is used.

7. A behaviorally sensitized nematode, which is used for screening a gene relating to a psychiatric disorder or a substance useful for prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatment of the psychiatric disorder.

8. The nematode according to claim 7, wherein the psychiatric disorder is schizophrenia.

9. The nematode according to claim 7 or 8, which is behaviorally sensitized by a central nervous system stimulant or another dopamine agonist.

10. The nematode according to claim 9, which is behaviorally sensitized by any of a psychostimulant, an apomorphine and a narcotic analgesic.

11. The nematode according to claim 10, which is behaviorally sensitized by any of amphetamine, methamphetamine, apomorphine and cocaine.